

Ancient Greece and Ancient Israel: Interactions and Parallels (10th to 4th Centuries BCE)

October 28 - 30, 2012

Room 496, Gilman Building, Tel Aviv University



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  תל-אביב
Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities

EUROPEAN NETWORK for the STUDY of ANCIENT GREEK HISTORY

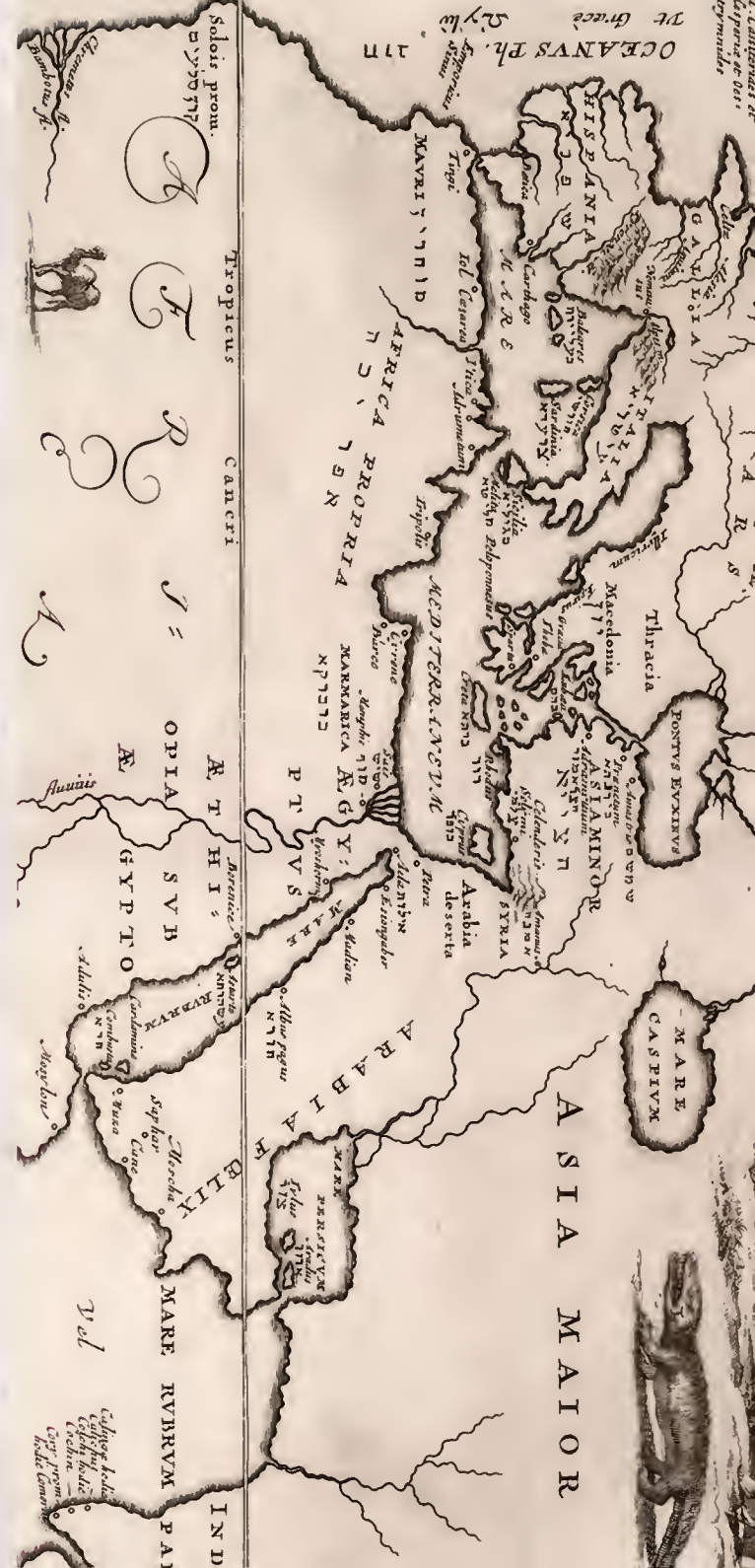
with the support of the
GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG

Conference Organizers:
Irada Malkin • Alexander Fantalkin
Tel Aviv University

The world of the Hebrew Bible, or the Old Testament, has often been studied against the background of Near Eastern civilizations. Yet, aside from the enormous hinterlands of the Near East, the ancient Land of Israel also neighbored the Mediterranean. As a collaborative conference between the *European Network for the Study of Ancient Greek History* and *Tel Aviv University*, we wish to concentrate on interactions and parallels between the ancient Greek world and the Eastern Mediterranean, with an emphasis on the period before the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

How do we, at the start of the third millennium CE, perceive and interpret the almost simultaneous arrival of the two cultures whose self-definitions still mark out the meaning of western civilization? We wish to discuss the key concepts of "parallels, similarities, and influences" in the context of the Eastern Mediterranean. Are they due to general human reaction to comparable historical situations or do they depend on actual contacts and influences, directly or via third parties? Drawing on specific case-studies we will discuss the usefulness of these key terms and analyze the likely contexts for interaction and/or the evidence of actual contacts.

The question of what is comparable as such and what is owed to actual influence is often debated. Whereas former approaches tended to regard the issue of influence literally, "in-fluence," "flowing into," as if cultural contacts are necessarily uni-directional; their "source," therefore, needed to be identified and located in a hierarchy that is either temporal ("who was first?") or spatial ("first from where?"). Such approaches may indeed be valid at times. Today the cutting edge of the discourse of civilizational parallels and contacts seems rather to consist in a multi-directional, non-hierarchical perspective, which may hopefully find its expression in the conference.



OCTOBER 28th

09:45 Coffee & Gathering

10:00-10:15 Greetings:

Eyal Zisser (Dean, Faculty of Humanities, TAU)

Irad Malkin (European Network/TAU)

Constitutive Narratives and Comparative World-Views

Session I Chair: **Israel Finkelstein** (TAU)

10:15-11:15 **Oswyn Murray** (Balliol College, Oxford):

The Western Tradition of Ancient History

Hans-Joachim Gehrke (University of Freiburg):

Between 'Clash of Civilisations' and Hybridity:

Conceptualizing Historical Comparison

11:15-11:30 Pause

11:30-12:30 **Irad Malkin** (TAU): *Foreign Founders: Greek*

and Hebrew Colonization

Alexander Fantalkin (TAU): *Comparable*

Chronologies: The Contexts of Interaction

12:30-13:45 Discussion Panel:

Shlomo Bunimovitz (TAU)

Bernard M. Levinson (University of Minnesota)

Doron Mendels (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

13:45-15:15 Lunch

Session II Chair: **Jonathan Price** (TAU)

15:15-16:15 **Kurt Raaflaub** (Brown University):

The Despotic Template: Authority, Politics and

Religion in Early Greek and Hebrew Political

Thought

Josine Blok (Utrecht University):

The Greek and Hebrew Concepts of the Covenant:

A Comparative View

16:15-16:30 Pause

16:30-17:00 **François de Polignac** (EPHE/ANHIMA, Paris):

Did the Greeks Feel at the Margins of the Ancient

Near East?

17:00-18:00 Discussion Panel:

Maurizio Giangiulio (University of Trento)

Konrad Schmid (University of Zurich)

OCTOBER 29th

Session III Chair: **Oded Lipschits** (TAU)

10:00-11:00 **Amir Gilan** (TAU): *A Bridge or a Blind Alley?*

Hittites and Neo Hittites as Cultural Mediators

Marek Węcowski (Warsaw University):

The Greek Symposium and the Biblical Marzeah:

Contrasts and Parallels

11:00-11:15 Pause

11:15-12:15 **Jacob L. Wright** (Emory University): *Aegean*

War Commemoration and the Composition

of Biblical Writings

Martti Nissinen (University of Helsinki):

Prophets and Kings: A Comparison between

Greece and Mesopotamia

12:15-13:15 Discussion Panel:

Nadav Na'aman (TAU)

Thomas Römer (Collège de France/University

of Lausanne)

13:15-14:45 Lunch

Session IV Chair: **Sylvie Honigman** (TAU)

14:45-15:45 **Christian Mann** (University of Mannheim):

Body and Sports in Israel and Greece: A

Comparative View

Bruce Louden (University of Texas at El Paso):

Jason, Medea, and Aietes: Jacob, Rachel, and

Laban: Argonautic Myth and Genesis 27-32

15:45-16:00 Pause

16:00-17:00 **Thomas Römer** (Collège de France/

University of Lausanne): *The Hebrew Bible and*

Greek Mythology: Some Case Studies

Robin Lane Fox (New College, Oxford): *Mixed*

Marriages: Nehemiah, Pericles and Others....

17:00-18:00 Discussion Panel:

Margalit Finkelberg (TAU)

Israel Finkelstein (TAU)

OCTOBER 30th

Session V The Phoenicians between Greeks and Hebrews

Chair: **Moshe Fischer** (TAU)

10:00-11:00 **Benjamin Sass** (TAU): *The First Adaptations of*

the Semitic Alphabet to Indo-European

Languages: Some New Evidence for Phrygian

and Greek Writing ca. 800 BCE

Rosalind Thomas (Balliol College, Oxford):

Phoenicians in the Old Testament and in Greek

Writers: A World Apart?

11:00-11:15 Pause

11:15-12:15 **Assaf Yasur-Landau** (University of Haifa):

From Canaanites to Israelites and Phoenicians:

Cultural Trajectories in Mediterranean Settings

Tamar Hodos (University of Bristol): *Mediation*

and Multi-Directional Exchanges: The Phoenicians

12:15-13:15 Discussion Panel:

Ayelet Gilboa (University of Haifa)

Gunnar Lehmann (Ben-Gurion University)

13:15-14:45 Lunch

Session VI Human Connectors

Chair: **Oren Tal** (TAU)

14:45-15:45 **James D. Muhly** (University of Pennsylvania/

ASCSA): *Traveling Craftsmen?*

Robert Rollinger (University of Innsbruck/

University of Helsinki): *Craftsmen and*

Specialists between East and West

15:45-16:00 Pause

16:00-16:30 **Nino Luraghi** (Princeton University):

Fighting for the Other: Mercenaries,

Culture Contact, and Ethnicity

16:30-17:30 Discussion Panel:

Maurizio Giangiulio (University of Trento)

Ran Zadok (TAU)

17:30-17:45 Pause

Envoi & Reflections: Margalit Finkelberg • Irad Malkin (TAU)

Final Discussion